

## **Socio-Economic Variables and Gambling Addiction among Juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

*This study examined the relationship between socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined the relationship between parental care, financial strain, parental influence, peer pressure and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study adopted cross sectional survey research design. The study adopted simple random and purposive sampling technique. Structured Questionnaires were administered to three hundred and eighty-four (384) juveniles selected for the study. Data was analysed using simple linear regression. All the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that there is significant relationship between parental care, financial strain, parental influence, peer pressure and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study recommends that parents should encourage their children to participate in school-based extra-curricular activities such as sport, creative arts, or youth groups whereby they can have the opportunity to broaden their social networks. This help keep them away from gambling.*

**Keywords: Socio-economic Variables, Gambling, Addiction, Juveniles**

### **Introduction**

Gambling also known as betting is the wagering of money or something of value which refers to as the stakes on an event with an uncertain outcome, with the primary intent of winning money or materials goods. According to Nelson, Robert (1998) gambling thus requires three elements to be present include consideration (an amount wagered), risk (chance), and a prize.

Gambling activities are many and diverse ranging from simple activities such as dice rolling, machine gambling, rolling wheel, sample betting and card playing to more complex activities such as blackjack playing, casino games, online betting among many others. While casino and card playing remain the most popular, more people access gambling opportunities through handheld devices as mobile phones, iphones and laptops computers.

In Nigeria, the most common form of gambling is sports betting and machine gambling like lotto gambling known as "Baba Ijebu" is spreading fast in both urban and rural areas where individuals buy cheap gambling machines from China and open small booths and shops where people meet to play. The prevalence of gambling and its problems among juveniles in both economically developed and developing countries has attracted the attention of governmental and non-governmental organizations. In United States and Canada, Korn, Murray, Marrison, Reynolds and Skinner (2006) observed that 60-90% of youth aged 13-19 years old report participating in some form of gambling activity, regardless of age restrictions.

In Nigeria, a survey reported by NOIPolls (2017) revealed a significant proportion of Nigerians polled (77%) attested to the high prevalence of betting and gambling in their locality; particularly amongst respondents in the South-West (92%) and South-South (91%) geo-political zones which recorded the highest prevalence. Also, the top four betting platforms identified by Nigerians are: Bet9ja (64%), Nairabet (34 %), Pool (22 %) and Lotto (20%). Similarly, betting has become a growing trend amongst juvenile Nigerians aged between 13 – 17 years, who accounted for the highest proportion of Nigerians who engage in the practice (Bankole, 2017). One among the reasons for the prevalence gambling among juveniles in Nigeria is the quest for money, timely payment, greedy, poverty, passion for sports and peer influence.

Gambling in any form increases the likelihood of participation, perhaps this may escalate into serious problem. The devastating effect of the gambling is on the perpetrator, the family and the society at large. According to Gupta and Derevensky (2008) the problematic gambling among juveniles is associated with increased behavioural problems such as delinquency and crime, disruption of relationships, impaired academic performance and work activities as well as poor psychological outcomes, including low self-esteem, depression, and suicidal ideations and attempts. Gambling also makes an individual wager his/her money or other valuable items on uncertain events. According to Blinn-Pike, Worthy and Jonkman (2007) financial behaviour were associated with sensation seeking and risk-taking activities like gambling. Juveniles often use resources such as credit cards, debits cards, or borrowed money to gamble. Gambling also destroys ones relationship with family, friends, and peers. Due to obsession with the game, a person is isolated from family members which causes serious family crisis.

In spite of the negative effects of gambling among juveniles in Nigeria, the gambling industry is considered to have a beneficial impact on the economy through employment and taxation, unfortunately, gambling addiction is increasingly evolving into a public health concern in Nigeria, especially among juveniles (Rataemane & Ligthelm, 2003). There is no doubt that gambling industry has established itself as a prominent social and economic force in Nigeria with significant impact on job creation and revenue generation. It has also expanded avenues and opportunities for Nigerians in entertainment and socialization and opened opportunities for advertising for newspapers, radio and TV, but those seem to be too few benefits compared to the negative effects of gambling in Nigeria (Rataemane & Ligthelm, 2003).

Unfortunately, there is a dearth of prevention programs or specific treatment facilities for juveniles who have developed gambling addiction in Nigeria (Kincaid, Daniels, Dellis, Hofmeyr, Rousseau, & Sharp, 2013). Therefore, a specific set of actions should be taken with collaborative efforts between governments, private, and civil society sectors as well as prevention specialists, legislators, researchers, and treatment providers will help contribute to the development of social policies and effective public health intervention options for treatment of juveniles with problem gambling within Nigeria.

Gambling is a common activity among young people, and various studies conducted around the world have reported a high prevalence of gambling among juveniles (Blinn-Pike, Worthy, & Jonkman, 2010; Calado, Alexandre, & Griffiths, 2017; Dowling, Merkouris, Greenwood, Oldenhof, Toumbourou, Youssef, 2017). There is a paucity of research on socio-economic determinants of gambling behaviour among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. In light with the above, this study examines the socio-economic determinants of gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. A study of this nature is important in terms of providing a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the

variables under study and will assist in designing effective preventive and treatment programs for victims.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Gambling among juveniles remains a silent problem that is less recognised as a social menace among education stakeholders and researchers. This is because it is a common phenomenon that is considered as recreational activity and even legalised by Nigeria government through which revenue are generated (tax collected from the owners of various gambling companies). However, Derevensky, Gupta, Dickson and Deguire (2004) noted that gambling causes more harm to the juveniles and the society than good. At the individual level, compulsive gambling problems affect a measurable proportion of young gamblers (Abdi, Ruitter, & Adal, 2015; Edem, Agba, & Ojong, 2020; Emeka, Ayuk&Ezikeudu, 2013) and may manifest in both psychiatric (e.g., anxiety, depression, and sleep deprivation) (Abdi, Ruitter, & Adal, 2015; Sharp, Dellis, Hofmeyr, Kincaid, & Ross, 2015) as well as long-term physical conditions (e.g., cardiovascular disease, peptic ulcer disease, and hypertension). Surprisingly, very few gamblers would admit that gambling is an addictive habit (Ligthelm, 2001). Minors and young people who indulge in gambling are found to perform poorly in their studies, to lose their school/tuition fees in gambling-related activities, and to engage in risky behaviour, such as alcohol use and high-risk sexual behaviour (Abdi, Ruitter, & Adal, 2015; Ahaibwe, Lakuma, Katunze, Mawejje, 2016; Ayuk, Emeka, Chibuzo & Omono, 2013; Owan, Ayuk, Tiku, & Nwankwo, 2019). Financial hardship is another cross-cutting concern. For instance, in most states in Nigeria, gamblers recounted experiences of landing themselves in debt, family financial hardships, and high levels of poverty in their communities (Ahaibwe, Lakuma, Katunze, Mawejje, 2016; Ayuk, Owan, & Uyang, 2013; Owan, Achu, Tiku & Nwankwo, 2019). Other notable impacts of gambling include loss of productive school or work hours, truancy, and domestic and community violence as well as loss of family assets (Ahaibwe, Lakuma, Katunze, & Mawejje, 2016; Ligthelm, 2001; Emeka, Ayuk, Udiba & Uyang, 2016).

Gambling problems adversely affect intimate partners and children in a number of ways (Dickson Swift, James, & Kippen, 2005; Hodgins, Shead, et al., 2007; Vitaro, Wanner, Brendgen, & Tremblay, 2008; Omang, Angioha, Ojong-Ejoh, & Abang, 2020). While emotional difficulties, physical complaints and behavioural difficulties are common, they can be experienced and expressed quite differently, the children of problem gambling parents are also at risk of developing gambling problems themselves. People with problem gambling fathers were 11 to 14 times more likely to have gambling problems and people with problem gambling mothers were 7 to 11 times more likely to have gambling problems. Against this backdrop, the following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

- (i) What is the relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar?
- (ii) How does financial strain relates to gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar?
- (iii) What is the relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar?
- (iv) To what extent does peer pressure relates to gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar?

### **Research hypotheses**

Four research hypotheses were formulated for this study. They are:

- (i) There is no significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.

- (ii) There is no significant relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.
- (iii) There is no significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.
- (iv) There is no significant relationship between peer pressure and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.

### **Study area**

The study area is Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Calabar, the capital of Cross River State is located in South-South, Nigeria. Calabar is divided into Calabar South and Calabar Municipality Local Government Areas and covers an area of about 1,480 Sq km. Calabar is located between longitudes  $8^{\circ} 17'00''$  E and  $8^{\circ} 20'00''$  E latitudes  $4^{\circ} 50'00''$  N and  $5^{\circ} 10'00''$  N (Udoimuk, Osang, Ettah, Ushie, Egor, & Alozie, 2014; Angioha, Akintola, Ogunnubi, & Butum, 2021; Angioha, Nwagboso, Ironbar, & Ishie, 2018). Calabar is sandwiched between the Great Kwa River to the East and the Calabar River to the West. Calabar falls within tropical equatorial climate with high temperature, high relative humidity and abundant annual rainfall. Two major air masses affect the climate of Calabar as well as other contiguous locations in the West African region. Calabar lies within a tropical region with well-marked rainy and dry seasons. The wet season starts from May and spans to October while the dry season starts from November to April (Ekiji, Nwosu & Agba, 2011; Ukwayi, Eja & Unwanede, 2012; Osonwa, Eja, & Emeka, 2015).

The three dominant ethnic settlement in Calabar are the Efiks, Quas and Efuts (Effiong-Fuller, 1996; Agba, Ojong, Akintola, Maruf, Udom, & Usung, 2021); but because of migration occasioned by socio-economic activities, Calabar is today a cosmopolitan society with mixed bag of people from different cultural backgrounds. Calabar owns a seaport, an airport, a market for agro-produce from the hinterlands and home of many industrial outlets. The city is a home to the prestigious University of Calabar established in 1975, a college of technology, a teacher-training college, and numerous secondary schools. Historically, Calabar was a centre for trade between Europeans on the coast and Africans farther inland. Fish, cassava, bananas, palm oil, and palm kernels were traded at Calabar for European manufactured goods, and the town also served as a major slave-trading depot.

### **Methodology**

The study adopts the cross-sectional survey research design. The design was chosen because it allows effective collection of data, about social events, as well as accurately and objectively describe existing relationship among variables or phenomena (Otu, Eja, Eko, & Josephat, 2011; Edem, Agba & Ojong, 2020; Akpabio, Angioha, Egwuonwu, Awusa, & Ndiyo, 2020). It was also adopted because it is specifically designed to systematically elicit data from respondents through interviews, questionnaire, and mails, among others. The study adopts the simple random and purposive sampling technique. The simple random sampling technique was used to select thirty-two (32) betting centres across Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The betting centres were selected using the balloting methods of the simple random sampling technique. This was achieved by writing down names of all the betting centres in each of all street where these betting centres are located in a piece of paper and put in a small basket where one centres was selected. The researcher purposively select twelve (12) from the thirty two (32) betting centres from different parts of Calabar. This suggest that twelve (12) respondents were purposively selected from bet centres in Amika Utuk, Uwanse, White House Street, Dan Archibong Street, Mayne Avenue, Inyang Nta Henshaw Avenue, Anansa Road, Palm Street, Target Road, New Airport Road, Goldie Street, Mount Zion Street, Ekpo Abasi, Egerton,

Calabar road, and Anantigha street. In the same vein, bet centres located in Diamond Hill, Barracks Road, Eta Agbor Road, Parliamentary street, Otu street, Okoro Agbor Street, Marian Road, NdidemUsang Iso Road, Spring Road, Odukpani Road, Akim, Ikot Ansa, Ikot Ishie, Kasuk, Duke Town, Henshaw Town were selected from Calabar Municipality. In all, the study respondents were selected from both Calabar South and Calabar Municipality. The total sample size is three hundred and eighty-four (384) juveniles found in bet centres, age 15-17. The sample size was determine using Cochran sample determinant. This sample determinant was adopted because the population of the study is unknown. To determine the sample size for juveniles who are victims of gambling addiction in Calabar, Cross River, Cochran’s formula (1963) was adopted. The formula for Cochran sample size determinant is presented as follows:

$$n = \frac{Z^2(pq)}{e^2}$$

Where:

- n = Required sample size
- Z = Confidence level (put at 95% or 1.96)
- p = Proportion of juvenile with gambling addiction in Calabar, Cross River state age 15-17 years (given in this study as 50%). That is 0.5
- q = Compliment of p (put at 50%, i.e, 1 - 50%). That is 0.5
- e = Level of accuracy or margin error (put at 0.05).

Data for the study werecollected through questionnaire. Out of 384 copies of the questionnaire distributed to the respondents, only 372 were returned and found usable showing a response rate of 96.9%. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as simple percentages and tables, whereas inferential statistics such as simple linear regression was used to explored the relationship between socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles.

**Results**

This segment of the study focuses on the analysis of data about the research questions that were asked at the early stage of this investigation.

**Table 1: Responses on the Respondents’ onDemographic Data**

Variable	Category	N	Percent (%)
Sex	Male	146	39.00
	Female	226	61.00
	Total	372	100.00
Age	Below 11 years	104	28.00
	12 – 14 years	211	57.00
	15 – 17 years	57	15.00
	Total	372	100.00
Religion	Islam	61	16.00
	Christianity	285	77.00
	African Traditional Religion	26	7.00
Educational qualification	Total	372	100.00
	FSLC	171	46.00
	SSCE	201	54.00
	Total	372	100.00
Time involved in gambling	Less than 5 years	133	36.00
	6-10years	111	30.00

11-15years	70	19.00
16years and above	58	16.00
Total	372	100.00

Descriptive statistics (percentages and graphs) were first used to analyze the demographic data (sex; age; educational qualification, religious affiliation and time involved in gambling) and the results are presented in table 1, while mean and standard deviation was used for other variables and presented in table 4. The independent variables in the study are; parental care, financial strain, parental influence, peer pressure, while the dependent variable is gambling addiction among juveniles.

Results of analysis of demographic data of respondents as presented in table 4.1 revealed that; out of the 372 accessible respondents’, 146 respondents representing 39.00% are males, while 226 representing 61.00% are females. As for age distribution of respondents’, 104 (28.00) are below 11 years, 211 (57.00) are between 12 – 14 years, 57 (15.00) are between 15 – 17 years. As for religious affiliation; 61 (16.00) practice Islamic religion, 285 (77.00) practice Christian religion and 26 (7.00) practice African Traditional religion. For respondents’ educational qualification; 171 (46.00) have primary school education (FSLC), while 201 (54.00) have secondary school education (SSCE). As for how long they have been involved in gambling; 133 representing (36.00%) have been involved for less than 5years, 111 (30.00) have been involved between 6 - 10years, 70 (19.00) have been involved between 11 – 15 years, while 58 respondents’ representing 16% have been involved for 16years and above.

**Table 2: Responses of Respondents on the common Forms of Gambling among Juveniles in Calabar Metropolis**

Forms of Gambling	N	Parentages (%)
Lotto (Baba Ijebu)	21	5.6
Bet9ja	139	37.5
Nairabet	118	31.7
Poll	15	4.0
Betking	51	13.7
Sportybet	28	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>100</b>

This section examined the forms of gambling available in Calabar Metropolis. Respondents expressed their views on the forms of gambling on available to them. The result indicates that majority of the respondents 37.5% (139) purported that Bet9ja is the most form of gambling available in Calabar Metropolis, while a significant percentage 31.7% (118)of them acknowledged the form of gambling to them was Nariabet. While an insignificant number of 4% (15) of the juveniles saw poll as another form of gambling among them. This result may show the facts that gambling has become a growing trend amongst juveniles in Nigerians aged between 13-17 years. Similarly, the findings coincided with the finding of Bankole (2019) that a significant proportion of Nigerians polled (77%) attested to the high prevalence of betting and gambling in their locality; particularly amongst respondents in the South-West (92%)and South-South (91%) geo-political zones which recorded the highest prevalence. Also, the top four

betting platforms identified by Nigerians are: Bet9ja (64%), Nairabet (34 %), Pool (22 %) and Lotto (20%).

**Table 3: Factors Influencing Gambling among y Juveniles**

Statement	Stronglyagree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Stronglydisagree
I gamble because my family is poor	72 (19.5%)	25 (6.7%)	41(11.0%)	134 (36.0%)	100 (26.8%)
I gamble because my parents gamble	111(29.8%)	70(18.8%)	27 (7.3%)	89 (23.9%)	75 (20.2%)
I gamble because my parents have permissive attitude to gambling	80 (21.5%)	160 (43.0%)	51 (13.7%)	68 (18.3%)	13 (3.5%)
I gamble because I need pocket money	97 (26.1%)	130 (34.9%)	18 (4.8%)	33 (8.9%)	94 (25.3%)
I gamble only when I urgently need money	60 (16.1%)	101 (27.2%)	25 (6.7%)	114 (30.6%)	72 (19.4%)
I gamble because I want to get rich	98 (26.3%)	94 (25.3%)	17 (4.6%)	111 (29.8%)	52 (14%)
I gamble because my friends gamble	92 (24.7%)	121 (32.5%)	52 (14%)	23 (6.2%)	84 (22.6%)
Gambling gives me sense of belonging	100(26.9%)	126 (33.9%)	25 (6.7%)	20 (5.4%)	101 (27.1%)
I gamble because gambling is interesting and fun	85 (22.8%)	123 (33.1%)	62 (16.7%)	30 (8.1%)	72 (19.4%)
I cannot control my gambling attitude	0 (0.0%)	65 (17.5%)	13 (3.5%)	111 (29.8%)	183 (49.2%)

Various factors have been found to influence the incidence and prevalence of youth gambling. These factors are both intrapersonal factors such as personality, attitude, arousal etc. and interpersonal factors like relationships with parents and peers, parent and peer gambling, and on the role of social norms and the portrayal of gambling in the media.

Table 3 presents information on some of the interpersonal factors that influence gambling among youths. Respondents were asked questions relating to their family background and

parental involvement in gambling activities. The results indicate that the majority of the respondents disagreed (36%) and strongly disagreed (26.8%) to the statement that they gamble because their families are poor economically. Only 6.7% of the respondents agreed to the statement. This shows that the economic status of the family is not necessarily a determinant of juveniles involvement in gambling. In other words, the children from economically rich homes also participate in gambling activities. Thus, gambling behavior of juvenile is not a function of the economic standing of their families, but as earlier found, self-inquisitiveness is a key determinant of gambling activities among juvenile.

The study also examined the relationship between parental involvement in gambling activities and youth gambling. Respondents were asked if they gambled because their parents gamble. Results indicated that almost all of the respondents (29.8%) vehemently strongly with the statement that they gambled because their parents are involved in gambling activities. However, 11% of the respondents were indecisive about the statement. Similar result was obtained regarding the statement that respondents gamble because their parents have permissive attitude towards gambling. Majority of the respondents agreed (43%) and disagreed (3.5%) to the statement while only 21.5% of the respondents agreed to the statement. Meanwhile, 13.7% of the respondents were undecided about the statement. This implies that parents' socialization plays a significant role in the gambling behaviour of juvenile. This finding collaborated with the findings of Ladouceur and Mireault's (1988) on the study of Quebec City high school students found that 90% of those surveyed who reported that they gambled said that their parents knew they did so, and 84% claimed that their parents did not object to their gambling; 61% stated that they actually put bets on in the company of their parents; and 25% had borrowed money from parents or relatives to bet or repay gambling debts.

Beyond the familial context, the study also examined the role of peer groups as an important factor influencing the involvement of youths in gambling. The result in Table 3 reveals that 24.7% and 32.5% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed respectively to the statement that they gamble because their friends gamble. However, 6.2% of the respondents disagreed with the statement while 14% of the respondents were undecided. This reveals that the majority of the respondents were influenced by their peer groups that equally participate in gambling. This is not unconnected with the result obtained concerning the statement that gambling gives gamblers some sense of belonging. The result shows that a preponderant percentage of the respondents (32.5%) agreed that they derived belongingness from participating in gambling with their friends. However, a significant percentage of the respondents (22.6%) disagreed with the statement.

No doubt, peer groups have tremendous influence in the lives of the young ones, particularly in the decision pertaining to their involvement in risk activities. These findings underscore the fact that peer groups also have an important influence on young people's risk-taking behaviour (including not only gambling but also smoking, drinking, and under age sex) which represent an inherent part of the process of making the transition from childhood to adulthood. For example, Griffith's (1995) work demonstrates the significance of young people's social networks in relation to gambling. This has shown that young people who are in peer groups of problem gamblers put pressure on each other to continue gambling; whereas those who participate in gambling with non-problem gamblers actually used peer pressure to look after each other and to try and stop vulnerable individuals from gambling too heavily.

Table 3 also provides information on intrapersonal factors that influence the involvement of youths in gambling. Specifically, intrapersonal factors such as gambling beliefs, cognitions



and attitude were given consideration. Respondents were asked to express their gambling beliefs which have influenced their involvement in gambling. The result reveals that majority of the respondents (21.6%) were involved in gambling activities because of their belief that it is a source of their pocket money, followed by 34.9% of the respondents that claimed otherwise. This shows that most young people engage in gambling on the basis that it provides them with money to run their everyday lives, such as to remain relevant in the peer groups they belong to. More than half of the respondents (25.3%) saw gambling as a quick way to meet urgent financial needs. Interestingly, the result also reveals that most of the respondents (26.3%) believed that they could get wealth through their consistent and diligent involvement in gambling activities. It is therefore apparent that youth gamblers engage in gambling because of its financial fascination and rewards.

In a similar manner, majority of the respondents (33.1%) claimed that they gamble because gambling is interesting and fun. Only 8.1% of the respondents disagreed to the statement. This is so because when played among ones peer group, it gives a sense of competition and solidarity to the group especially when it is rewarding. These findings point to the fact that individuals gamble for a variety of reasons, including: money, enjoyment, excitement, and social reasons. These are the salient motivating factors for gambling (Splevins, Mireskandari, Clayton, &Blaszczynski, 2010). In addition, Lloyd,Doll, Hawton, Dutton, Geddes, Goodwin and Rogers(2010) found that adult Internet gamblers in Britain gamble to escape from routine and boredom, and to modify their mood, for money, and for enjoyment.

Table 3 also presents information on gambling addiction. Respondents expressed their opinion on whether they have control over their gambling behavior or not. The result indicates that majority of the respondents (49.2%) claimed that they have control over their gambling behavior while a significant percentage of the respondents (17.5%) agreed that they could not control their gambling habit anymore.

**Testing of Hypotheses**

**Hypothesis Ho<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles’ in Calabar.

**Table 4: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of parental care to gambling addiction among juveniles’**

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Parental care	10.7903	4.85744
Gambling addiction	14.3710	5.31710

  

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	70.229	1	70.229	10.462	.214 <sup>a</sup>	.047	.046	.001 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	56214.578	370	151.931					
Total	56284.806	371						

The independent variable in this hypothesis is Parental care, while the dependent variable is Gambling addiction among juveniles'. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 4. The result of analysis as presented in table 4 revealed R-value of 0.214<sup>a</sup>. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of  $\pm 1$  represent a small effect,  $\pm 3$  is a medium effect and  $\pm 5$  is a large effect. Also, the  $R^2$ -value of .047 imply that 47% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (parental care). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the  $F(1, 370) = 10.462$ ;  $p < .05$ , is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (parental care) on gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted  $R^2$  (.046) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.047) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that parental care significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area.

**Hypothesis Ho<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar

**Table 5: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of financial strain to gambling addiction among juveniles'**

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Financial strain	11.9301	3.14650
Gambling addiction	14.3710	5.31710

  

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	218.336	1	218.336	16.441	.230 <sup>a</sup>	.049	.048	.001 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	56066.470	370	151.531					
Total	56284.806	371						

The independent variable in this hypothesis is financial strain, while the dependent variable is gambling addiction among juveniles'. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 4 5. The result of analysis as presented in table 5 revealed R-value of 0.230<sup>a</sup>. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of  $\pm 1$  represent a small effect,  $\pm 3$  is a medium effect and  $\pm 5$  is a large effect. Also, the  $R^2$ -value of .049 imply that 49% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (financial strain). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the  $F(1, 370) = 16.441$ ;  $p < .05$ , is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (financial strain) on

gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted  $R^2$  (.048) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.049) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that financial strain significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area.

**Hypothesis Ho<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles’ in Calabar

**Table 6: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of parental influence to gambling addiction among juveniles’**

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Parental influence	12.7903	3.71436
Gambling addiction	14.3710	5.31710

  

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	6.874	1	6.874	17.045	.241 <sup>a</sup>	.053	.051	.001 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	56277.933	370	151.103					
Total	56284.806	371						

The independent variable in this hypothesis is Parental influence, while the dependent variable is Gambling addiction among juveniles. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 6. The result of analysis as presented in table 6 revealed R-value of 0.241<sup>a</sup>. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of  $\pm 0.1$  represent a small effect,  $\pm 0.3$  is a medium effect and  $\pm 0.5$  is a large effect. Also, the  $R^2$  –value of .053 imply that 53% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (parental influence). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the  $F(1, 370) = 17.045$ ;  $p < .05$ , is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (parental influence) on gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted  $R^2$  (.051) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.053) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that parental influence significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area

**Hypothesis Ho<sub>4</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between peer pressure and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar

**Table 7: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of peer pressure to gambling addiction among juveniles**

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
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Peer pressure	9.6505	4.17687
Gambling addiction	14.3710	5.31710

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	201.218	1	201.218	23.327	.318 <sup>a</sup>	.068	.066	.000 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	56083.589	370	151.577					
Total	56284.806	371						

The independent variable in this hypothesis is peer pressure, while the dependent variable is Gambling addiction among juveniles. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 47. The result of analysis as presented in table 7 revealed R-value of 0.318<sup>a</sup>. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of ±.1 represent a small effect, ±.3 is a medium effect and ±.5 is a large effect. Also, the R<sup>2</sup> –value of .068 imply that 68% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (peer pressure). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the F (1, 370) = 23.327; p < .05, is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (peer pressure) on gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted R<sup>2</sup> (.066) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.068) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that peer pressure significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area.

**Discussion of Findings**

The statistical analysis for hypothesis one shows a significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles’ in Calabar, River State, Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that children rely on their parents for their basic needs, such as clothing, shelter and food, with their family providing their primary sense of physical security. This suggest that giving children a stable home routine also enables them to feel secure, as they know they will eat, drink, bathe, and sleep at certain times without being disturbed. Parental care is a recipe for children to develop their skills and talents, grow physically, and develop cognitively and emotionally. Similarly, parental care is also important in building trust between children and their parents. When children know that they can trust those around them, they feel more comfortable and secure. According to Mwangangi (2016) proper nurturing of children is the primary responsibility of parents, because the values given to children and the type of training they receive from their parents seem to largely determine their future life-style and whether they will develop gambling addiction or not. Parents help their children develop certain behavioural attitudes, and once established these attitudes are difficult to change or suppress. Parental care plays an important role in shaping a child by providing security and developing their values and skills.

The result of the second hypothesis indicates that there is a significant relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State,

Nigeria. This is to say that without pocket-money a modern child feels inferior to his playmates, he lacks independence, but more important still, he cannot learn the value of money or develop the ability to handle it: he either steal or gamble to make up for the deficiency. Previous studies have revealed that debt and financial problems have been found to be associated with delinquency (Blom, Weijters, & Van der Laan, 2011). There is also a strong need on the part of parents to keep check on their children in this way they will restrain them to develop delinquent personality Robert (2002) concluded that children exposed to risk factors such as behavioural problems and family dysfunction, follow a well described and documented path beginning with behavioural manifestations and reactions such as defiance of adults, lack of school readiness and aggression towards peers. This leads to negative short-term outcomes including truancy, peer and teacher rejection, low academic achievements, and early involvement in drugs and alcohol. These factors lead to causes school failure and eventual dropout, leading to negative and destructive attitudes such as delinquency, adult criminality and violence.

The result of the statistical analysis relating to hypothesis three indicates that there is a significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The findings of the study suggest that parents play an important role in inculcating norms and values within children (Mwenda, 2012). These include an understanding of right and wrong, respect, fairness, compassion and responsibility. Similarly, the study noted that children learn these values by observing and emulating their parents' behaviour, and being taught by their parents. Thus, children learn both the importance of these values and the consequences of not observing them. According to a review of studies of family influence on youth gambling, there is a higher prevalence of gambling or problem gambling among youth who belong to families where the parents provide little social or emotional support, the parents approve of or are involved in the adolescent's gambling, the parents gamble, or a family member uses substances. This study lends support to earlier work by Pitt, Thomas, Bestman, Daube, and Derevensky (2017), which indicates that there is a range of socialisation factors, particularly family and the media (predominantly via marketing), which may be positively shaping children's gambling attitudes, behaviours and consumption intentions.

The result of the last hypothesis indicates that there is a significant relationship between peer pressure and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. This is to say that peer pressure is a very real thing, and minors will often act out in front of their "friends" so that they feel accepted and are a part of a group and its reasons for juvenile delinquency. Research has demonstrated that peer-based gambling may also lead children (and girls) to gamble more than they would if they were on their own (Hardoon&Derevensky, 2001).

The finding of this study is in accordance with the works of Ajiboye (2015) who investigated the influence of parenting styles and peer pressure on delinquent behaviours among Senior Secondary School Students in Kaduna metropolis. Result revealed that there is a Peer Pressure was also found to strongly encourage Delinquent behaviour among students  $r = .683$ ;  $p < .000$ .

### **Conclusion**

The study concludes that there is a significant relationship between socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River state, Nigeria. Women are undoubtedly the foundation of the basic unit of human society. While gambling has been traditionally viewed as an adult activity, there is ample evidence suggesting its popularity amongst juveniles who continue to engage in both regulated (in spite of age restrictions) and unregulated forms of gambling. This is likely a result of gambling's general social acceptability,

media advertisements, endorsement and sanctioning by governments, and the glitz and glamour associated with this form of social activity. The perceived ease of becoming wealthy without working has resulted in gambling taking on a new level of status amongst juveniles, with becoming a professional gambler (often poker player) being a new preferred vocation. The implication of this findings is that if nothing is done very fast to address the problem of gambling among juvenile, an increasing number of them with gambling addictions will experience a wide range of social, economic, personal, academic, mental health, familial, criminal, delinquent and legal problems. As well, these individuals will experience poor academic performance, increased rates of suicide ideation and attempts, and difficult peer relationships resulting from their excessive problematic gambling. All of these behaviours place the adolescent at high risk for multiple mental health issues.

### **Recommendations**

In view of the various findings, summary and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- (i) There is need for basic parenting research for the development, evaluation, and dissemination of parenting information in Nigeria. Government should provide funds for such research. The outcome of such research can lead to a greater understanding of the important role of responsible parenting in the development of children and the nation as a whole.
- (ii) Parents should create a safe space where children can discuss friendship issues with them and make demand of the necessary things they need both for their personal use and for their studies.
- (iii) Parents should help their children and their friends explore their interests and find things in common they enjoy doing together and help to foster their interest by supporting them and encouraging the extra activity.
- (iv) Parents should encourage their children to participate in school-based extra-curricular activities such as sport, creative arts or youth groups where they have the opportunity to broaden their social networks. This will help keep them away from gambling.

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